

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A semiconductor integrated circuit for the processing of conditional access television signals, the circuit including an input interface for receiving encrypted television signals and an output interface for output of decrypted television signals. Control signals broadcast with the television signals include control words and common keys. The common keys are received in encrypted form, encrypted according to a secret key unique to each semiconductor integrated circuit. The input interface is connected to a decryption circuit whereby the only manner of providing the common keys to the circuit are in encrypted form encrypted according to the secret key. Due to the monolithic nature of the circuit, no secrets are exposed and the system is secure.

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